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 Group A.U.: 3753

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

shown in accordance with 37 CFR §1.121(c)

1. (Previously presented) A device for adjusting the degree of vacuum in an apparatus for collecting substances by suction, comprising: a chamber; a valve with a body that is provided with a sealing surface and with a first air flow port connected to atmosphere at one end and to said chamber at the other end; a vacuum source, said chamber being connected to said vacuum source and to said collection apparatus; a permanent magnet; supporting means associated with the body of the valve in an adjustable position so as to allow arrangement of said magnet at different distances with respect to said sealing surface; and a flow control element provided so as to be attracted into a closed position in abutment against said sealing surface by action of said magnet, wherein said supporting means comprises a ring that is associated with the body of the valve by way of a thread thereof, said ring comprising ribs connected to a central hub for accommodating said magnet, said ribs forming air passage channels.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The device of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising a series of numerical indications provided on the ring for supporting the permanent magnet, that appear selectively through a window provided in the valve body following rotation of said ring in order to provide information regarding a degree of vacuum provided by said device.

4. (Original). The device of claim 1, comprising an abutment for stopping opening motion of the flow control element in such a position as to ensure that with the flow control element fully open air flow encounters no resistance in passing through the valve.

5. (Previously presented) A device for adjusting the degree of vacuum in an apparatus for collecting substances by suction, comprising: a chamber; a valve with

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a body that is provided with a sealing surface and with a first air flow port connected to atmosphere at one end and to said chamber at the other end; a vacuum source, said chamber being connected to said vacuum source and to said collection apparatus; a permanent magnet; supporting means associated with the body of the valve in an adjustable position so as to allow arrangement of said magnet at different distances with respect to said sealing surface; a flow control element provided so as to be attracted into a closed position in abutment against said sealing surface by action of said magnet; and indication means for indicating the flow of air through the valve for connection to the atmosphere.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein said means for indicating the flow of air through the valve is constituted by a protrusion associated with the valve body that comprises a U-shaped duct connected, at an end of a first branch of the duct, to the first, atmosphere air flow port on a flow control element side and connected, at an end of a second branch of the duct, to the chamber connected to the vacuum source and to the collection apparatus, and a body accommodated in said second branch that is adapted to be conveyed by air flow that enters from the valve from a position at a base of the U-shaped duct assumed by the body in the absence of air flow to a position that faces a window formed in a wall of said second duct branch so as to be visible from outside.

7. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein said means for indicating the flow of air through the valve is constituted by a protrusion associated with the valve body that comprises a U-shaped duct connected, at an end of a first branch of the duct, to the first, atmosphere air flow port on a flow control element side and connected, at an end of a second branch of the duct, to the chamber connected to the vacuum source and to the collection apparatus, and a water mass provided on a bottom of said U-shaped duct made of transparent material, so that air flow causes bubbling that is visible from outside.

8. (Original). The device of claim 5, wherein said means for indicating the flow of air through the valve is constituted by a duct that is associated with an end of

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the first, atmosphere air flow port on a side of the chamber that is connected to the vacuum source and to the collection apparatus, and a body arranged in said duct so as to be carried by air flow from a position at a base of the duct, which the body assumes in the absence of air flow, to an overlying position, which is visible from outside through a window formed in a wall of said duct.

9. (Original). The device of claim 8, wherein the duct for accommodating the body adapted to be carried by the air flow has a cylindrical cross-sectional shape, with a window formed in the wall that is open.

10. (Original). The device of claim 8, wherein the duct for accommodating the body adapted to be carried by the air flow is conical, with a window formed in the wall that is closed by way of transparent material.